

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for courtesies extended during the telephonic interview with Applicant's Attorney and Applicant on 22 December 2005 pertaining to the discussion of the prior art, most specifically Arn, U.S. Pat. No. 3,838,844 and Cannon, U.S. Pat. No. 5,163,718. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and the following comments, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the present application.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 was rejected for being unclear as to whether the sleeves and conduits are to be positively recited elements. As discussed with the Examiner, the sleeves and conduits are not elements of the claims, and the present amendments are believed to clarify this point. Allowance of claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 20-24 and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failing to provide antecedent basis for the term "said conduit". The preamble of claim 20 has been amended to provide antecedent basis, and allowance of claims 20-24 and 27-29 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Arn. Applicant has amended claim 12 to state that the "first and said second coupling [are] capable of being permanently crimpable." Further, Applicant has amended claim 12 to state that the first and second couplings are male couplings. Arn does not show or discuss couplings that are permanently crimpable. Arn shows a standard coupling arrangement, where an attached conduit is fitted internally into the coupling, either by threading or other known process. The structure of Arn could not be crimped as recited in claim 12. Accordingly, Applicant believes claim 12, as amended, is patentably distinguishable from the prior art, and allowance of claim 12 and dependent claims 13-15 is requested.

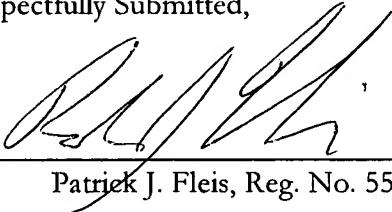
Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-15, 20-24, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arn in view of Cannon. Claims 18, 19, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arn in view of Cannon and further in view of Scherer. As stated above, Arn does not show or discuss a coupling that is permanently crimpable. Similarly, Cannon does not discuss a coupling that is crimpable, but, rather, a hose (#1) that can be clamped onto a pipe. Independent claim 20 has also been amended similarly to claim 12 to state that the coupling is permanently crimpable. The combination of Arn and Cannon would not obviate the present invention, as neither reference discusses the crimpable coupling as presently claimed. Allowance of claims 12-15, 20-24, and 27 is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the claims as presented patentably distinguish the present invention from the prior art and requests that the claims to be passed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present amendments, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney to discuss such questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

By


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